

Program Executive Office Ground Combat Systems



M88A2 Recovery Vehicle (Hercules) Armored Brigade Combat Team



SPECIFICATIONS:

TOWING CAPACITY: 70 Tons

LIFTING CAPACITY: 35 Tons

MAIN ARMAMENT: M2 .50 Machine Gun CREW: 3

MISSION: The M88A2 Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lift and Evacuation System (HERCULES) is developed to accomplish safe, effective and independent battlefield recovery missions.

OVERVIEW: The M88A2 HERCULES is a full-tracked, heavy armored vehicle which can implement safe, reliable, swift and effective combat evacuations through the battlefield recovery operations of towing, winching and lifting.



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CURRENT OPERATIONS: The M88A2 is the primary recovery support vehicle for the 70-ton M1 Abrams tank, the Wolverine and other heavy combat vehicles actively engaged in the current fight.

IMPROVEMENTS: The HERCULES modified the M88A1 chassis to significantly improve towing, winching, lifting and braking characteristics. The M88A2 includes a 1,050-hp engine; a 35-ton boom; overlay armor; a 140,000-pound, single-line, constant-pull main winch; and a 3-ton auxiliary winch for deploying the main winch cable. When compared to the M88A1, these upgrades improve towing power by 25 percent, lifting capability by 40 percent and winching ability by 55 percent. The system is in full-rate production and deployment.

PRODUCTION: Fielding began in July 1997.



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